

City Employees Caught in 'Squeeze Play'

• Ironic Twist Shown As Employees Forced To Minority's Side

An ironic twist became evident this week in the case of the badly bungled referendum petition as city employees set out to defend a position that their own city council has opposed.

It all started two weeks ago when the petitions, calling for a vote of the people on the controversial Marble Estates rezoning issue, were brought to the city clerk's office for filing.

Shortly after they were filed it was noted that a large percentage of the signatures were not accompanied by the required addresses, dates and precinct numbers.

Employees in the office allowed the circulators of the petitions to alter them to include these essential items.

They were immediately slapped with an injunction prohibiting them from certifying the petitions until such time as the courts could decide if any laws had been broken.

IRONIC TOUCH

However, and here's the ironic touch, earlier the majority of the city council had approved the rezoning of the tract for residential use . . . and the purpose of the petitions was to nullify their decision.

Therefore, any defense of the actions of these employees by the city attorney's office must hinge on justifying the circulation of the petitions, and must oppose the opinion of the majority of the city council.

Thus we see the city in the position of paying to justify a position that the majority of the council oppose.

It's a very ticklish situation, but it is bound to occur whenever the public allows a small, but noisy, minority to represent themselves as the majority.

It is to the everlasting credit of at least four of the seven councilmen who are holding their ground against this bloc of dissidents that they intend to bring no pressure against the employees who, innocently enough, were caught in this political squeeze play.

PRESS EDITORIAL PAGE

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SEASON FOR MADNESS—Torrance youngsters will don outlandish garb on the evening of October 31 and prowl through the city's darkened streets in search of candy tributes or mischief. Most of the city's residents will pay up to the extorting threats of "trick or treat" but the holdout few will be sure to get their screens and windows soaped.

California Business Index Registers Strong Advance to New All-Time High

Southern California's business activity recorded a strong advance in September to establish a new all-time high for the fifth time in six months. J. J. Weigel, manager of Security First National Bank's Torrance branch, reported.

The bank's index of business activity for the month rose to 228.3 (preliminary), to handily regain the slight decline registered in August, Weigel said. The September reading was 6.4 per cent above the corresponding period of a year ago, he added.

Every major area in the Southland reported an employment gain for the month. In the Los Angeles Metropolitan area, San Diego County and Fresno County, employment was at a record high. In most areas, the increases were greater than usually occur during September.

BRIGHT PICTURE According to Weigel, the unemployment picture for the Southland as a whole has continued to brighten. Unemployment followed a downward trend for the second consecutive month, reaching its lowest level of the year in the Los Angeles, San Bernardino-Riverside, San Diego and Kern County areas.

The decline which took place in the Los Angeles area was greater than usually occurs in September, but in most other areas was less than seasonally expected. Total building and construction in the southern half of the state was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate equal to \$3,569,000,000 (preliminary), virtually unchanged from the levels recorded in the two previous months.

TOTALS Total manufacturing employment in California is slightly above that of a year ago, with sizable advances in defense industries, electrical machinery and primary metals. Declines were noted in lumber and transportation equipment industries. The construction industry shows a substantial seasonal upswing for the first eight months of 1961, in the dollar volume of nonresidential construction. Increases were noted in new residential construction during the first seven months of 1961, as well.

AVERAGES For the first nine months of 1961, total building and

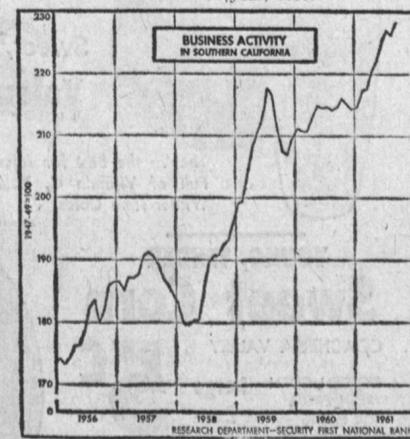
Extra Dividend Fred E. Edwards, president of Southwest Savings of Inglewood and Torrance, has reported an extra 1/4 of 1 per cent dividend payment for the third quarter ending September 30, 1961 boosting the annual rate for that period from 4 1/2 per cent to 4 3/4 per cent. Dividend payments for the third quarter of this year totaled \$617,000 while assets as of October 18 have increased to \$66,025,950.05.

construction was at an average level, seasonal factors considered, equivalent to \$3,572,000,000, or two per cent above the record 1960 record level of \$3,503,000,000.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, homebuilding activity in the 14 southern counties increased moderately between August and September. However, it was still below the relatively high levels experienced in the period May through July. Permits were issued for 11,720 dwelling units, bringing the aggregate for the first nine months of this year to 105,927 units—four per cent above the similar

1960 level, and 16 per cent below the level of the first nine months of the record year, 1959.

Grant Jones and Richard Davis, they will be taken on tours of research and development companies, will hear discussion groups and presentations by student speakers. The goal of this symposium will be, (1) to promote the study of sciences and mathematics, particularly at the high school level (2) to demonstrate the part which the humanities play in the development of scientists, (3) to recognize talented youth and assist them in developing their interests and abilities.



Urge Claimants to Immediately Report Unemployment Insurance Shakedowns

Irving H. Perluss, director of employment, today called upon unemployment insurance claimants and employers subject to the taxing provisions of the California Unemployment Insurance Code to notify the Department of Employment immediately if ever they encounter anything which smells of a shakedown.

Perluss issued the appeal immediately after his department in cooperation with the Los Angeles County District Attorney William B. McKesson caused the arrest in Los Angeles this week of a 42-year-old employee of the agency at its service occupations office at 141 West Venice Blvd. on a 10-count felony charge. That employee, John Walter Hamilton, of 4200 Don Diablo Dr., Los Angeles, is accused by the Department of Employment of soliciting and receiving money for authorizing irregular payment of unemployment insurance benefits to individual claimants.

Hamilton was arrested by a district attorney's investigator on a felony complaint issued by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office charging him with embezzlement and falsification of accounts by a public officer, a violation of Section 424 of the Penal Code. Perluss said he has affidavits from unemployment insurance claimants stating that Hamilton propositioned

them. Claimants said in these affidavits that at Hamilton's suggestion they paid him in amounts ranging up to \$45 to approve payment of unemployment benefits to them. Collectively, they were victimized for \$279, usually for from \$5 to \$20 each, their affidavits, which formed the basis of the complaint, said.

REPORT IT! "This is the first case of its kind in the 25-year history of California's unemployment insurance program. I urge anyone, claimant or employer, who ever may be approached with any kind of a kickback proposition to report it immediately," Perluss said. He added the state will prosecute any such case vigorously.

SHS Students to Speak At Science Symposium

"The Next 20 Years in Space," "Man-Machine Interface," and "Frontiers of Biological Research," are among speech topics to be delivered to 27 South High students attending a junior science symposium at the California Museum of Science and Industry.

On Oct. 26 and 27 these science and math students will attend the symposium to perhaps find a new purpose in the fields of science and mathematics. To give them prominent information concerning these subjects will be Dr. Richard S. Hirsch, head of engineering psychology at International Business Machines Corporation, and Dr. William H. Pickering.

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Texas' Only Republican Congressman Here Oct. 28

Congressman Bruce Alger, the only Texas Republican in the U. S. House of Representatives, will lead three Texan speakers at the All-Day Republican Educational Program, October 28. The meeting is to be held at the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sent to the House of Representatives from Dallas County, Congressman Alger, is a leading advocate of curtailment of government operations and expenses. His yardsticks are, "Is it a function of the Federal Government?" and "Can we afford it?"

Other Texans scheduled for these meetings are Jack Cox, prominent Texas conservative, and Dr. Robert E. Morris, president of Dallas University and former counsel of the Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee.

DELEGATES Congressman Craig Hosmer, of Long Beach, leads the California delegation of

speakers. This group will include Assemblyman William Grant, of Long Beach, William J. Burns, Vice-Mayor of Lakewood, Reverend Lawrence Evers, Pastor of the First Orthodox Presbyterian Church, of Long Beach, and Dr. Norvel Young, dynamic youthful head of Pepperdine College.

4,000 persons are scheduled to take part in the all-day rally. George R. Johnson, chairman of the 32nd Congressional District Republican central committee said, "The program will emphasize what can be done to get sound government through the Republican party, and what can be done to help bring total victory over the Communist menace. Practical aspects, enabling everyone to contribute to these goals, will be included."

For ticket information, interested persons may telephone HEMlock 2-0542 or GENEva 8-6187.

Radio Program, "Why, Teacher?" Gains Local School Endorsement

Information from the California Teachers Association reveals that the third year of 15 weekly broadcasts of "Why, Teacher?" is planned over radio stations KRCA, Los Angeles, on Saturdays at 3 p.m.; KFOX, Long Beach, on Sundays at 8 p.m.; and KDAY, Los Angeles, on Sundays at 8 a.m.

Torrance School Superintendent, J. H. Hull, has indicated that these broadcasts have, in the past, been especially praiseworthy. "I would certainly recommend to those who wish to become informed about education in California and in the nation as a whole to be a part of this radio and TV audience," he stated. Newspaper and radio and TV news representatives will ask prominent California and nationally known educators penetrating questions about topical education issues.

COOPERATION The program, produced in cooperation with the California Teachers Association (CTA), won the 1960 top national School Bell Award for

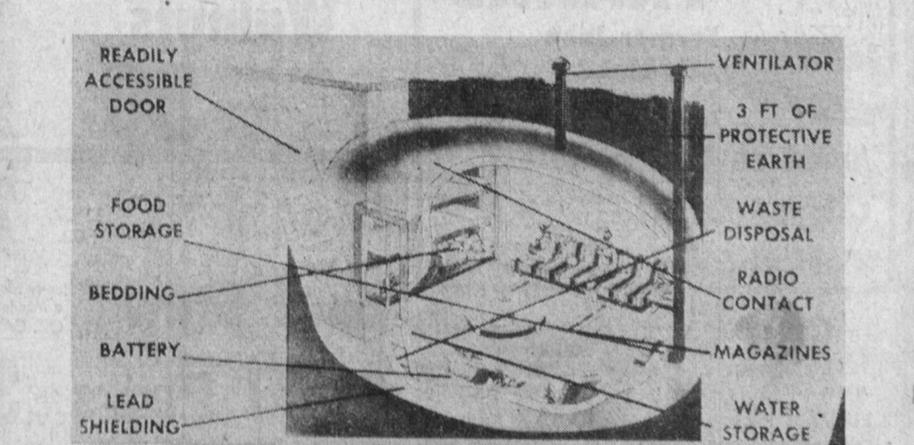
producing studio KRON-TV, San Francisco, and won School Bell citations for the participating stations "for distinguished service in the interpretation of education."

Mrs. Mabel Perryman, CTA radio-television director, reports, "An innovation for the series this year will be the addition of several television and radio news commentators on panels with press representatives." Among those scheduled to appear this year will be Dr. Harry McPherson, superintendent of Napa city schools and senior member of the textbook committee of the State Curriculum Commission; Dr. Ralph Tyler, director of the Behavioral Sciences Center at Stanford University; Dr. William G. Carr, National Education Association (NEA) execu-

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